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Agent's Docket N. 35424/DOB/rf/vf

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent application of:

Applicants: Sergio ZAMBELLI – Benito ZAMBELLI ✓ )

Ser. No.: 10/015,764 ✓ )

Group Art Unit: 3625

Filed: December 17, 2001 ✓ )

Examiner: Unknown

For: Device for protecting lifting inserts having a... ✓ )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington D.C. 20231 USA

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Sir,

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97(b) and (c)**

Applicant herewith encloses copies of the prior art references which have been cited in the European Search Report issued for the counterpart European Patent Application which contains subject matter equivalent to that of the present application. The references submitted herewith for consideration are listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

A copy of the European Search Report (in English) is herewith provided which indicates the degree of relevancy found by the European Patent Office of each reference, so as to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3), according to the Commissioner's Comment 68, 1135 Off. gaz. Pat. Office 13,20 (Feb. 4, 1992), and as set forth in MPEP 609 part A(3).

A copy of the Annex to the European Search Report is also enclosed, which indicates the patent family members of the patent documents cited in the Search Report.

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.97(c) and 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), the undersigned herewith states that each item of information contained in the present IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present IDS.

Respectfully submitted,

Guido MODIANO (Reg. No. 19,928)  
Agent for the Applicant

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Encl.: -Form PTO-1449.

-Copy of European Search Report.

-Cited references.